

REPORT OF THE 2ND AFRICAN RCE YOUTH VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Organised by RCE Minna, Nigeria, in Collaboration with RCE Grand Rapids,
Michigan USA

13th September, 2017

***Theme: The Role of Youths in Achieving Good Governance, Leadership and
Sustainable Development on the Continent***



Photo Credit: RCE Minna

Introduction

African countries continue to face serious economic challenges occasioned by poor governance, external interference by the western powers, a long history of dependence on Mono Economy, lack of transparent and accountable leaderships, and a docile population. To make matters worse, Youths on the continent, apart from taking a “back-seat role” in the affairs and destinies of their countries and regions, they have become time bombs waiting to explode due their indulgent in

all sorts of vices ranging from substance abuse to cultism and other forms of crimes.



Photo Credit: RCE Minna

African youths have an integral role to play in bringing about Sustainable Development, Good Governance and sound Leadership on the continent, this was why the Regional Centre of Expertise (RCE) Minna, Nigeria in collaboration with RCE Grand Rapids, Michigan USA, for the second time, brought together, through ICT, young people from across Eastern, Western and Southern Africa to discuss ways of addressing the challenges of **Leadership** and **Governance** on the continent through sound and active youth participation in the decision-making process, advocacy, sensitization, enlightenment and **taking leadership roles** in their various communities, regions and countries.

Keynote Address and Presentations

The Coordinator of RCE Minna and President of African RCEs, Dr. Abdul Husaini in his opening remarks, charged the youth to be more proactive in their endeavors. He sighted example of successful young people across Africa and the world at large. He called the attention of the youth to the Sustainable Development Goals and how Africa is to benefit from it.



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Also, Mal. Nuru Lemu, the Co-Founder and Pioneer Member of RCE Minna, who gave the Keynote address, stated that Africa is actually facing numerous challenges from poverty, insecurity, hunger, poor waste management, climate change, governance etc. He however called on the youth to know that nobody will solve the problem of Africa but African themselves. He further advice the youths to utilized their youthful age in making the desired impact in their various communities through the use of modern technology among other means.

Thereafter, three RCEs, namely, RCE Minna, RCE Swaziland and RCE Lusaka made their presentations on youth and good governance according to their various countries. RCE Zomba submitted their presentation but could not present due to challenge with internet connectivity. There were series of comments, questions and answer at the end of the presentations.



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Scope of Participation

The 2nd African RCE Youth Virtual Conference brought together 8 RCEs from Zambia, Malawi, Tanzania, Kenya, Swaziland, Uganda, Cameroon and Nigeria participated at the event. However, there were 35 participating youths who joined from RCE Minna. Other people from Zaria, Abuja, Jigawa, Kwara and other parts of Minna and Nigeria joined the events too.

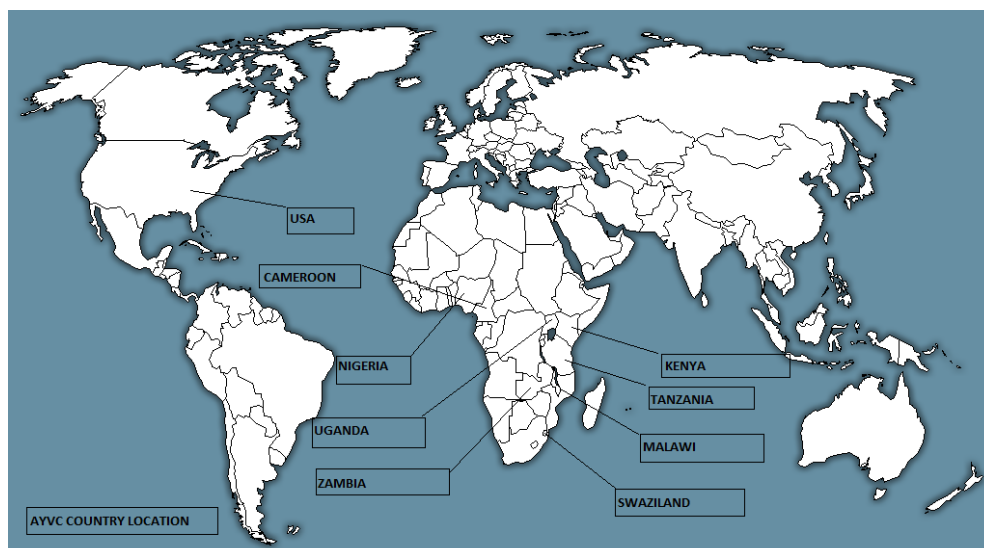


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Major Outcomes

Some of the major outcomes of the virtual conference include:

1. That Africa is indeed faced by numerous challenges ranging from poverty, ecological, environmental (erosion, drought), hunger, etc. However, nobody but Africans, nay African youths are to find local solutions to their challenges.
2. That African youth should not sit and wail, but rather take up active roles in self-empowerment and sustainability.
3. The Virtual Conference was as an avenue for more visibility for RCE in Africa.
4. The conference has raised more awareness for youths on what RCEs stands for across the globe.

Conclusion

The race globally is not for a win at the final lap, but rather it should be a case where almost everybody reaches the finishing line. Africa must queue into this race and to ensure it has reached the finish line sustainably. RCE Minna sincerely appreciates the support of RCE Grand Rapids Michigan, USA and RCE Service Center for their continued support and encouragement. .

The Banner

